

PBCA/CAOM Conference Call
September 20, 2005
2:00 – 3:30

➤ **National Housing Relief Efforts**

Relief efforts fall under the umbrella of FEMA and Red Cross as the lead agencies under the broad scope identified as the continuum of Mass Care. The approach to housing is tiered beginning with temporary housing with the ultimate goal of finding permanent housing.

The three levels consist of the following”

- (1) short term shelter housing
- (2) temporary housing i.e., trailers, cruise ships
- (3) permanent housing

➤ **HUD Relief Efforts**

Hank Williams, Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Office of Housing has been named the Co-Chair of Joint Housing Solution Center which will work in conjunction with federal, state and local government to develop a consolidated approach to providing relief efforts. Mr. Williams has been in Baton Rouge since September 3, 2005. It is anticipated that he will serve as the co-chair for a least a year.

The Department has created a Command Control Center in HQ called the HUD Recovery and Response Center. The FHA Commissioner, Mr. Brian Montgomery will serve as the Head of the Center. Each program area will be represented. Janet Golrick Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary for Multifamily has been assigned to represent Multifamily Housing. The Center will be open 8am to 10pm and will serve as the primary clearinghouse for all Hurricane related queries for HUD staff. Additional information can be found on HUD@ Work on the HRRC.

For external callers the following number can be used to inquire about vacant units for each state and FEMA related questions. 1-888-297-8685

➤ **FEMA UPDATE**

As of the date of this conference call, FEMA had registered over 400,000 evacuees and continues to process requests. Evacuee's first step is to register and receive a FEMA number. FEMA will then assign a caseworker to the evacuee to provide disaster relief

assistance including benefits to \$26,000 for 18 months. FEMA will recertify evacuees to ascertain status of continued eligibility. FEMA continues to open disaster recovery centers nationwide.

The registration process is slow; FEMA has started to use PDAs at shelters to expedite registering evacuees. This has been a challenge to date. The administration has set a goal of evacuating all shelters by mid October and placing evacuees in temporary housing

FEMA website www.FEMA.gov

➤ **Vacancy Listing**

Each HUD office has been in the process of identifying vacant units for referral. These vacant unit lists are for HUD properties only. This information is forwarded to FEMA who will provide the information to evacuees. If you have owners calling for any non-HUD housing units please have the owner submit the information to WalterMelnich@dhs.gov

➤ **Damage Assessment**

Property damage assessments by the owner are currently tracked by the applicable HUD field office and submitted to HQ. Inspectors will document formal confirmation of the physical condition as properties in the impacted areas become accessible. Inspectors are currently on the ground and starting to document damage in Mississippi and will slowly include the other disaster impacted states.

➤ **Notice 04-22**

“Disaster Recovery Guidance by Multifamily Housing after a Presidentially Declared Disaster” provides guidance on various matters related to the declared disaster including but not limited to FEMA eligibility determinations, waivers, priority for permanent housing, multiple occupancy, leases and rents, regulatory relief, vacant unit holds etc.

➤ **Notice 04-22 Clarification**

Additional information was issued September 9, 2005, providing additional clarification to the existing notice 04-22 including FEMA certification documentation, right of return, regulatory relief, vacant units. Follow up clarification to this notice has been drafted and will be issued including additional policy guidance not addressed in either the original notice or the initial clarification.

➤ **TRACS**

We are working with TRACS staff to determine what modifications will be needed to accommodate and track evacuees. We are currently working with proposed procedures and modifications to TRACS in order to provide housing to disaster impacted properties and residents. Currently we are looking at three buckets for tracking purposes (1) providing subsidized housing to residents previously receiving subsidy (2) providing market rent housing to tenants previously receiving subsidy and (3) providing subsidized housing to evacuees not previously receiving subsidy.

As part of the process we will be sharing the proposals with software vendors for comments.

➤ **Additional information provided by conference call participants**

1. FEMA link providing citizen eligibility information

<http://www.fema.gov/rrr/dafaq.shtm#citizen2>

2. The American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging (AAHSA), in conjunction with National Church Residences (NCR) has created resource system to assist displaced seniors. The *Senior Housing Hotline (1-800-401-3340)* immediately links displaced elderly residents with information on vacant available housing units and services in any city and state in the country. The hotline is operating 24 hours a day / 7 days a week, with immediate assistance available Monday - Friday from 8am - 5pm EST. A resource website, <http://www.ncr.org/katrina>, provides a mechanism for housing and service providers to post available resources, as well as a “search” mechanism so that hundreds of housing professionals across the country are immediately linked to resources to expeditiously assist any resident who needs to be relocated.